

Message Text

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FOR IOP/M, IEA, STATE FOR EA

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION: SOUTH VIETNAM

1. FOLLOWING FULL TEXT EDITORIAL SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST APRIL 11
TITLED "A PRESSING HUMAN PROBLEM":
QUOTE

2. OF EXTREME URGENCY IN SOUTH VIETNAM TODAY IS THE PLIGHT OF COUNT-
LESS REFUGEES, MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN, WHO ARE IN DIRE NEED OF FOOD,
MEDICAL CARE AND SHELTER.

3. SEVERAL COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES HAVE BEEN QUICK TO
RESPOND BUT THE WORSENING SITUATION MAKES IT IMPERATIVE FOR THE
CONSCIENCE OF ALL NATIONS TO BE MOBILISED TO GIVE SUCCOUR TO THE
INNOCENT VICTIMS OF THIS CRUEL AND FUTILE WAR.

4. OF THE US\$56.2 MILLION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS BUDGETED FOR
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS SOUTH VIETNAM FOR THE CURRENT FISCAL
YEAR, NO LESS THAN \$41.6 MILLION HAS ALREADY BEEN DIVERTED TO THE
RELIEF OF PEOPLE DISPLACED BY THE INSURGENTS' OFFENSIVE.

5. THE UNITED STATES HAS ALSO PROVIDED SHIPS AND OTHER FACILITIES
TO TRANSPORT REFUGEES FROM BATTLE-THREATENED AREAS TO SAFER PLACES.

6. BRITAIN HAS GIVEN POUNDS 750,000 AND AUSTRALIA HAS CONTRIBUTED
US\$1 MILLION TO THE U.N. HIGH COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES APART
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FROM SENDING SEVEN PLANES TO ASSIST IN THE TRANSPORT OF RELIEF

MATERIALS AND REFUGEES.

7. WEST GERMANY'S RED CROSS SOCIETY HAS RESPONDED WITH A PLANE-LOAD OF MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND A MEDICAL TEAM.

8. OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND VOLUNTEER AGENCIES HAVE ALSO JOINED THE URGENT HUMANITARIAN EFFORT BUT MUCH MORE IS NEEDED.

9. THE DIMENSIONS OF THE PROBLEM ARE REVEALED IN A PICTURE DRAWN BY THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT, MR. DANIEL PARKER WHO IS ALSO PRESIDENT FORD'S SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR DISASTER RELIEF.

10. THIS SHOWS THAT THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT WAS ALREADY CARING FOR 250,000 REFUGEES WHEN THE INSURGENTS BEGAN OVERRUNNING THE CENTRAL HIGHLANDS THREE WEEKS AGO.

11. AS OF APRIL 8, AN ADDITIONAL 313,000 WERE REGISTERED WITH AN ESTIMATED 750,000 ON THE MOVE AWAY FROM BATTLE ZONES TO AREAS UNDER CONTROL OF THE SAIGON ADMINISTRATION.

12. NO ACCOUNT HAS BEEN TAKEN OF THE NUMBER OF DISTRESSED AND HOMELESS IN AREAS OCCUPIED BY THE INSURGENTS BUT THE NEED FOR URGENT RELIEF THERE IS REFLECTED IN THE APPEAL BY THE INSURGENTS FOR OUTSIDE HUMANITARIAN AID.

13. PRESIDENT FORD IS TO SEEK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL FOR MORE RELIEF FUNDS AND NO DOUBT OTHER GOVERNMENTS WILL ADD TO WHAT THEY HAVE ALREADY GIVEN.

14. ALL ARE UNDER AT LEAST A MORAL OBLIGATION TO DO WHAT THEY CAN TO ALLEVIATE HUMAN SUFFERING AND TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO DO SO.

15. THE IMPORTANT THING, HOWEVER, IS TO CHANNEL ALL RELIEF THROUGH ESTABLISHED INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES RATHER THAN THROUGH THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT.

16. BUT, EQUALLY IMPORTANT IS THE NEED TO GET THE TWO SIDES TO BRING THE WAR TO AN END. RELIEF WORK CANNOT BE CARRIED OUT EFFECTIVELY IN CHAOS CREATED BY HOSTILITIES. UNQUOTE
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